The Revd John Skinner's Tour to Lincolnshire, 1825

A. J. White

The Revd John Skinner was born in 1772 and from 1800 until his suicide in 1839 he was rector of Camerton in the Somerset coalfield. Like many clergymen of his time he became greatly involved in antiquarianism; in his case it was the Romans who appealed most and he was fortunate to have enough spare time to excavate and collect within his own area. His interests, especially in his later years when he became more and more irritated and isolated, became all-pervasive and he was obviously regarded as an eccentric by his parishioners and even his friends. However, there was much to admire in the man, not least his persistence and powers of observation.

Skinner made many tours both at home and abroad between 1788 and 1832 and the great bulk of his manuscript journals remain unpublished in the British Library (they were left to the British Museum by their author). In 1930 a selection of his journals relating mainly to parochial affairs and home life at Camerton was published under the title Journal of a Somerset Rector. A much enlarged and revised edition was published in 1971.

Among the travel journals in the British Library is one entitled 'Excursion from Camerton by Sandhurst to London, thence to Peterborough and Lincoln in the summer of 1825'. This, part of his Northern Tour of 1825, carries details of his tour through Stamford, Grantham, and Newark to Lincoln where he spent several days examining the sites and the collections of brother antiquaries. His visit marks a useful point in the succession of tourists to Lincoln, coming as it does in the brief age of good roads which preceded the coming of the railways and the era of mass travel. A tourist could still enjoy a sense of adventure without the same degree of risk that his 18th-century predecessors took, while the spread of guidebooks had not yet rendered his journals superfluous or entirely derivative.

Like Stukeley, Skinner had an eye for landscapes and noticed earthworks which have now gone, such as the agger of Ermine Street at Stamford or the defences of Wigford in Lincoln. He also shared with Stukeley an enthusiasm which at times outran his evidence, and his system of etymological analysis of place-names, in which he broke down each name into its constituent letters and syllables, is reminiscent of Stukeley's wilder flights of fancy. He was not alone in this system, which is still not quite dead.

There is much of value in Skinner's account. His writing was so appalling that he had his brother Russell transcribe all his journals to render them legible, but his drawings are of some merit — if not artistically — at least for their quantity and subject matter. In his tour through Northants he drew extensively from Aris's volume on Durolivae for his illustrations, but for Lincolnshire he had no such ready-made material and his sketches are correspondingly original, especially those of antiquities in the collections of J. Fardell, F. J. Willson and the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral. These sketches of antiquities are the only surviving contemporary illustrations in most cases.

John Skinner's visit to Lincolnshire is contained in his Journal of a Northern Tour 1825, vol. 1, and is in the British Library (BM Add. MS 33683). It is half-bound in brown leather with raised bands and gilt lettering. The overall size of the volume is 240 x 202 x 61mm and the leaves are 230 x 180mm. The text and illustrations were originally numbered separately in ink, but now are numbered continuously by folio. Lincolnshire occupies ff. 109-65. Illustrations are in ink and coloured wash and are pasted in. Folios 210-37 form a descriptive account of Lincolnshire and Lincoln; this seems to be entirely derivative from Gough's edition of Camden's Britania and other available late 18th- and early 19th-century sources. At fol. 238 is a copy of Marratt's plan of Lincoln dated 1817, presumably the one given to Skinner by John Fardell (see note 37). The tour stops at Lincoln in vol. 1 and is followed by much miscellaneous matter, Inter alia a prospect of Edinburgh, various ballads, and details of Peterborough, occupying fol. 166-209.

Acknowledgements

I should like to acknowledge the help and advice of the late Mr Antony Gunstone, formerly Director of Lincolnshire Museums, in the preparation of this extract, and to the Keeper of Manuscripts, The British Library, for access to the manuscript and for permission to publish this transcript.

Other published works of the Revd John Skinner

Ten Days' Tour through the Isle of Anglesea, December 1802 by Rev. John Skinner, Rector of Camerton, Somersetshire, Archaeologia Cambrensis, Supplement, July 1908

SKINNER'S VISIT TO LINCOLNSHIRE

August 17

We left the Inn [The Haycock at Wansford Bridge] at half past five for Stamford, and had an interesting drive to that place five miles distant: passing Burleigh, the superbe seat of the Marquis of Exeter, to the right of the road. Much did I wish to make more particular observations, but our time would not permit. The name Burleigh implies the ley or place near the Beer⁴ or passage; the British public road having taken this direction to Stamford close to the premises. While the horses were changing, and the other passengers at tea, I ran with Owen to the bridge over the Wellings [Welland] river, which separates into two streams just above the bridge, forming an arm or inclosure which gave name to the place. Three Counties, Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire, and Rutlandshire, nearly unite at this point. The Church² is a singular edifice, a lofty tower adorned by five ranges of pointed arches, terminating in a Steeple equally lofty: the annexed sketch will best describe its appearance, when viewed from the bridge. There are six other Churches in the place which convey some idea of its extent and population. On quitting Stamford, we noticed the dorsum of a Roman road⁴ running boldly along the heights a little to the left, about half a mile from the town, and the turnpike soon took the line proceeding as strait as an arrow to Casterton, where there was an outpost, as I should suppose, from the name,⁣ thence to Dickeingot where was another — ed it ing end: it then continued through some other villages
to Grantham but the evening closing in, we took our stations inside of the coach, and arrived at Newark about eleven. Owen feeling himself sick and unwell during the whole of the stage we went directly to bed.

August 18

We rose at six, and after breakfast had just time to visit the Market Place and exterior of the Church, which is a handsome structure; we sent for the Clerk to gain admittance within, but as he did not arrive in time, we were disappointed. The Stage which conveyed us to Lincoln, sixteen miles distant, left Newark at seven. On leaving the town I noticed the ruins of the Castle near the bridge above the river, which sufficiently identifies the origin of the name, a British defence near the ford having in the first instance been the ar iök of the en ew water, afterwards adopted by the Romans. The road to York crossed the river at this point, also the turnpike to Nottingham; that we pursued to Lincoln was undoubtedly formed by the Romans, as it runs in a direct line almost the whole way, and we occasionally saw the dorum, when the present road had deviated a little out of it. Six miles before we reached Lincoln, the lofty turrets of the Castle formed a conspicuous object on a hill overlooking the flat Country, and proving the eyemon of the original appellation el Lyn signifying water, Col a hill, and en a projecting point occupied as a habitation. The road, which as I before observed, had run quite strait hitherto, made an angle at Bracebridge where we crossed the water; and the reason is very obvious, the Romans could not have carried it across the marshes in front of the city, as it was then a Lyn or Lake. Brace is derived from being the Aber ac or strong post to defend the water passage, where the bridge now is; that the Roman road ran here notwithstanding the angle it made at this point is obvious, from its continuing the boundaries of Parishes: indeed the whole way from Newark, the point of division of the several Parishes which are bounded by the road is marked by painted inscriptions on high posts. We got to Lincoln a little after nine o’clock, observing to the left of the road some inclosures which were probably occupied by the Romanized Britons when in subjection to their conquerors. The Coach stopped at the Saracen’s Head Inn just at the outside of the Southgate of the City and we were not long in ascending the steep, occupied by the Castle and Cathedral, both within the lines of the Roman Station. Having procured admission to the superb Minster as it is here called, we took the usual round shewn to Strangers: it possesses few attractions with respect to tombs there being none of very ancient date, but the Font seems to be coeval with that at Winchester, being of the same form, and having the four faces sculptured with representations of winged animals and dogs, the former probably the symbols of his Satanic Majesty’s ministers, the latter of the faithful guardians of the sheepfold. In the Cloisters we were shown two tessellated pavements secured from the injuries of the weather by a covered Building. The Cathedral being erected on the site of an edifice of consequence, as is ascertained by the extent of the foundations in the immediate vicinity. It is no improbable conjecture that the Chief Temple once stood on this spot it occupied as was the case we know at Canterbury, St Paul’s, Bath, and I believe Winchester. Tessellated pavements were employed to decorate the houses of the Gods, as well as the residences of the great, since that most interesting piece of antiquity described by Montfaucon with inscriptions in Greek characters, was we find taken from the Temple of Fortune at Paestum. In the Cloisters, leaning against the wall, I noticed a sepulchral stone quite perfect, retaining the exact form of the stole, brought from Greece, in the British Museum; the inscription is as follows: I. L. HELVIS NATIONE GRECVS, VIXIT ANNOS XXXX II, INGENIA CONIVGI POSVIT — I. L. Helvis by Nation a Greek lived forty years. I. L. Ingenia placed this stone to the memory of her husband. It shows what must have been the consequence of the place when under the government of the Romans that foreigners were induced to visit it for the purpose either of trade or profit, and it is curious to observe the very same Stele or sepulchral stone which was used at Athens, employed at Lincoln. I also sketched the fragment of another sepulchral stone representing the head of a young man, in a niche terminating in a point, very similar to what was afterwards adopted by the monastic order in the interments of their Abbots and Ecclesiastics. I am more and more confirmed in the opinion I have long entertained that all the sculpture and architecture of the Normans and Saxons was derived from the existing models they found on the Continent, and on this Island. The front of Lincoln Cathedral retains the exact form of the circular arches and recesses in the buildings of the Romans, and I have little doubt was taken from them: indeed the Gateway now standing at the northern extremity of the station, which is undoubtedly the finest Roman remain in Britain exhibits the middle large arch, with a smaller one at each side, as was the mode everywhere where observed by the Architect at the time of the Norman Conquest in the Western provinces of the English Monarchy, as well as to guard the entrances to the Norman Castles were very similar to this building, as will appear when examining the annexed sketch, and the description there given of the original form. The men now employed in lowering the road, which in the course of time has risen five feet above the original surface, have met with several Coins, some large and middle brass, others of the Lower Empire, I purchased a few of these by way of memorial of the place. The road I understand has more than a hundred, and several articles in brass. I made two drawings of the gateway; the first shewing the smaller arch with the depth of ground lately dug away; this measures eleven feet in height, by seven in width; the larger arch about thirteen feet in height, the earth not being yet removed; and about fifteen in width; to the top of the wall eighteen feet; but it was much higher in the memory of persons now living. And therefore my reason to believe a square tower was carried up above the gateway, a shop having been built on the left hand side the small arch has been removed, but traces of it are seen behind the house, the Commissioners of the roads have very properly determined to preserve the arches now remaining and set them off to every possible advantage by lowering the ground, quite to the base, that is, five feet below the present surface. The foreman of the labourers at present employed, seemed an intelligent person, and accompanied me along the lines of the station, extending from the summit of the hill, quite through the City towards the river; it contains the Castle erected by the Normans just after the Conquest who imitated so closely the Roman mode in the form of the arches over the gateways, and in the laying the stones zigzag or coping, is denominated herringbones: it is impossible to distinguish between them; indeed I am inclined to think that part of the walls are Roman, although the Keep, on an artificial mound was evidently the work of the Normans. The height of the bank of the outer lines of the station, measured from the Fosse is twenty feet, that of the inner mound on which the castle walls are built, nearly forty. The annexed sketches will best explain the appearance and relative situation. My conductor informed me that he thought the length of the station from North to South, was upwards of a mile. Before we descended the hill from the Castle, I stopped to sketch a large piece of Roman masonry, apparently the side of an extensive building, but as it measures nearly the full size of the British Museum, being about thirty feet in width, and thirty in height, it is formed of five courses of Roman bricks, three rows in each course, between the stone and the
wall: it is denominated the Mint House,18 whether employed by the Saxons as such, who struck many coins at Lincoln, I have yet to learn. Owen is far from well, his complaint having returned, which detracts much from the satisfaction I should experience at this place.

August 19

After breakfast I walked to the Bookseller's, to procure a Map of Lincolnshire;19 also a description of the place now publishing in Numbers;20 it being Market day the streets were crowded. As Owen felt very weak after his frequent evacuations, I persuaded him to continue within doors till dinner time, and proceeded to trace the walls of the Station from the river Witham, which flows at the southern extremity, along the western line to the summit of the hill. Part of an old Tower in the wall of a warehouse near the wharf marks the South West extremity.21 Large foundation stones have been dug up, so as to leave no doubt of its extent in this direction. Crossing the Gainsborough road,22 I began to ascend the Hill by a walk formed on the foundation of the Walls called the Parks: the gardens within the boundary, exhibit a dark soil and fragments of pottery.23 A little beyond this I noticed a fragment of the Wall about six feet in height, the stones laid in the Herringbone fashion close to the footpath.24 A more modern Wall built on the foundation of the Roman work, continues to work the line as far as the road which leads to the Race Course;25 beyond this, the Keep of the Norman Castle, built soon after the Conquest, forms a conspicuous object on an artificial knoll projecting somewhat beyond the quadrangular inclosure attached to the West wall of the station. The Square Tower and Gateway at the North West angle of the Castle Walls, I am inclined to think was the work of the Romans,20 forming the West Gate of the original Station; for I must here premise that the first inclosure contained only the Castle Hill, in which the Cathedral and Norman fortress are built; and afterwards, as the colony increased, the walls were carried forwards twice the extent to the river, which formed an additional security to the South.26 I am inclined to think the Romans had an Arx, or commanding elevation in the midst of their station on the site of the present Norman inclosure, and the western Gate opened into it. The arch of this gateway is so similar to the North, of all still remaining, known to be Roman, that I do not hesitate to profess it to be the work of the same people. The Norman wall, attached to it, is built after the Roman manner, with layers of squared stones; and in parts the herringbone or zigzag mode is observed;27 it encompasses an area of two acres in which the Gaol and New County Hall is contained. The first station, which included the Castle and Cathedral, was a parallelogram 1300 feet in length by 1200 in width, the additions down to the river were more than double these dimensions: the annexed sketches will best explain the subject. Arriving at the North Gate, which I sketched yesterday, I continued to trace the line of the station from thence to the Eastgate; but my observations were much interrupted by gardens, and the inclosures of houses; however it is very clear that it ran close to the Minster which was formerly entirely within its walls, but the East end in after times was carried beyond them.28 From the Sub-Dean's garden, where there is a terrace formed on the Old Wall, and a small pultry entirely excavated out of it, I traced the line exactly, and also made a drawing of the ruins of an old building called the Palace, and said to have belonged to King John, but this is merely one of the 'on dists' without any authority to support it.29 The view of the Country to the South East of Lincoln is interesting from this eminence. Having been introduced to Mr Fardell,30 one of the Members of the Antiquarian Society, he obligingly accompanied me to the interior of the Castle, and conducted me over the County Hall, now nearly finished after a chase plan of the Gothic Architecture, by Smirke;31 also to an Asylum for Lunaticks near at hand. From hence we walked to a gentleman's of the name of Wilson,32 who showed me a large collection of Roman vessels, lamps, etc. etc., which have been dug up within these few years: of these I made memoranda: he has also an iron dart surrounded with combustible pitch, resin,33 etc. etc., employed to fire the houses by the besiegers: in latter times several of these I hear have been dug up in different parts of the City. From thence I accompanied Mr Fardell to his own house,34 a most delightful situation for a town residence, and copied a beautiful Roman vessel of cream coloured ware and a rudely formed jug of black glazed material, with a large yellow pattern in the centre:35 a smaller jug with a handle was found with it, and a glass vessel resembling a Vinegar Cuet with a stopper. This gentleman gave me a plan taken of Lincoln,36 which I find a great assistance to me; also some plates of tessellated pavements, etc. etc., He much wished me to dine with him, but that was impossible. On my return to the Inn, I found Owen still so unwell I thought it advisable to get the advice of a medical man how to proceed: he came accordingly, and I had the satisfaction of hearing there was no fever, and that with a little care he made no doubt he would soon get rid of the complaint: it was however requisite to give up the idea of reaching York tomorrow, and I determined on continuing here till Monday, when I hope he will be quite recovered. After dinner, I walked with Owen to the Cathedral, as I had promised to call on Mr Gray, one of the Vicars,37 to see the library etc., etc., in our way, as we ascended the hill, I made a drawing of what is called the Jews House; it certainly boasts of high antiquity, as the windows and doorway are of the circular Anglo Norman form; probably it was attached to some religious society before the dissolution.38 A lane facing this house, retains the name of Bull's lane,39 probably it led to the Amphitheatre to the East of the Station. The Library above the Cloisters, is a good long room, but scantily stored; however I should much like to have leisure to look over the MSS, which the shelves of two bookcases abound. The Architect Inigo Jones did not shew his taste in the building as he has adopted the Grecian pillars to form one of the sides, and arch of a Gothic Colonnade.40 I occupied a few minutes in copying the Roman remains, consisting of Roman vessels of various shapes and sizes and some iron heads of missive weapons, however I take them to be such employed in the defence of places against besiegers and thrown from the Balista on the walls.41 I sketched, on leaving the Library, one of the elegant circular windows, containing painted glass and receding to the Inn to tea: before I went to bed I penned in my sketches consisting altogether of nineteen. Owen is much better.

August 20

After breakfast I walked with Owen to shew him the Roman Gateway to the North of the station where workmen are now engaged in lowering the road; and thence we walked to the Castle where I made another drawing of the Gateway facing the west in the wall of the Norman fortress, which I am convinced was the original Roman structure,42 added to by the Normans when they formed their castle on the site of the Roman residence. I also made a sketch of the Eastern entrance to the Castle which is a very different structure, having circular Towers apparently of the age of Edward I, when the greater part of the Cathedral was built.43 Mr Gray, the Priest Vicar, who attended us over the Library yesterday, here joined us, and attended us to the site of a British residence to the North of the Roman Station;44 the road to Spital running through it: it is called by the inhabitants the Saxon Town, but the Saxons would have occupied without doubt the houses found within the Station, instead of
establishing themselves on the outside of the walls, besides the earthworks and lynchets, which are indication of British inclosures. Mr Gray showed me a coin found near the spot which retains the half circles and crescents one meets with on the early British Coins; and I have little doubt that if they were to dig within the lines, unbanked pottery and other indicia of the early occupiers of the soil, would be discovered there. Having enclosed two or three circles of the workmen, near the North Gate, we walked to call on Mr Fardell, who afterwards attended me (for Owen returned to the Inn finding the exercise too much for him at present), to the quarries, where several Roman interments have been found, contiguous to the Fosse, also the elegant vessel in Mr Fardell's possession. A large excavation extending through the rock for a considerable distance, is supposed to have been a subterraneous aqueduct to supply the colonists at Loundum by the way the Latinized name given by the Romans was evidently formed from the British Lyn Dun implying exactly the same as Lyn Col, these conquerors seldom changing the original name of a place, but only the termination of it. Other interments have been found near the other roads of the City, proceeding from the four gates. Our observations concluded on these subjects, Mr Fardell conducted me to the ruins of a Monastic house near the river, which affords some interesting views of the water in front, and the lofty towers of the Cathedral on the summit of the hill in the background. I made three sketches from different points of the ruins, and two of the Cathedral and City; the 1st shewing its situation extending from the summit of the hill down to the river Witham. The 2nd gives the South side of the noble structure, extending full length above the roofs of the houses, seen from all parts; it is a most imposing piece of architecture. Returning to the Inn, I was glad to find Owen much better, and able to make a good dinner; after which we visited his Apothecary, who confirmed the good accounts of his convalescence, and promised to write down directions to be observed in case the complaint should return upon him: he seemed to be an intelligent man. These attacks in the bowels, he assured me had been more frequent this summer than he ever remembered in all his practice, and in some instances it partook of the Cholera Morbus. From the Apothecary's who resides in the Corn Market, we continued our walk nearly half a mile in the suburbs, beyond the larger drains of the levels, called the Gows, and procured admission to the Church of St Peter's in the Gows, having heard it was an ancient edifice, containing a Font of greater antiquity than that in the Cathedral; but we were disappointed in our expectation. The interior has lately been repaired, but in a style little accordant with its original architecture. I met with a singular monument of stone in the pavement of Monastic origin, exhibiting three crosses instead of one; of this I made a memorandum. Turning off from the road to the left, we pursued the line of one of the principal gowts or water courses, which in Somersetshire we denominate rhums; the smaller ditches being made to fall into the larger, so as to keep the level lands dry and healthy. These drains abound in Eels; also Perch, Tench, and some Jack are caught therein. During our walk, I sketched a Milk maid, going into the meadows with her pail, which she carried under her arm, instead of on her head, which I believe is the usual mode; the variety was rather picturesque, and as such I have recorded it. Arriving at the banks of the river, we saw several boats, and boats hoisting the Longboat signal from Boston; also two steam vessels which ply daily, between Boston and that place. One has just had the iron boiler hoisted out, which weighed five tons; it had become thin and leaky, and will impede the vessel some days owing to the repairs. Had time permitted me, I should have devoted a day to visit the Church at Boston, which is built after the model of a Church at Antwerp. Several of the Treckscults or vessels drawn by horses for the conveyance of merchandise are exactly similar to those which pass to and fro on the Canals in Holland, with round sterns, wide rudders, and flat sides; they are also gaily painted after the Dutch manner; as there is such frequent communication between Lynn and the Dutch Coast, there is little matter of surprise that these customs should obtain. Returning to the Inn I employed the interval between tea and bed time in penning in my sketches, and writing my Journal.

August 21

We were late at breakfast, which made us too late at the Cathedral, we understood the Service was to begin at half past ten, instead of ten, and the Psalms were nearly concluded when we arrived there. As the Organ is undergoing repairs, we had only the singing of the Choiristers who seem to have good voices. The service was well performed, but no residentiary Clergy present. After Church I walked with Owen along the Roman road leading from the Northgate towards Spital and Brigg: we afterwards took another view of the interior of the Cathedral, which is now the coolest place to be in, the day being insufferably hot. At two we dined at Mr Fardell's who accompanied us again to the Church at four. Mr Gray, the Priest Vicar drank tea with us, and I made a farewell Sketch of the Cathedral from Mr Fardell's garden. Returning to the Inn we called to settle with the Apothecary in the Corn Market, and proceeded thence along the Gows to the Toll Bar at the entrance of the City, where I had observed the lynchets of British inclosures; these were, I found, surrounded with an agger, and constituted the residence of the Britons probably during the Roman epoch. As we were to leave Lincoln at four o'clock we went early to bed.

NOTES

1 This shows Skinner's fanciful system of place-name etymology at work.
2 St Mary's.
3 The road can be seen on air photographs as a parched strip crossing the Empingham Road at an oblique angle. It was excavated here in 1956 by Charles Green, see Antiquaries Journal, XXXXII, 1959, pp. 77-81.
5 Skinner's inability to see a number of sites because of the timing of public transport has quite a modern feel about it.
6 The Fosse Way.
7 An acute piece of observation.
8 I am not aware of any other record of these boundary posts which is therefore an intriguing new piece of information.
9 Perhaps he is referring to the medieval defences of Wigtown; the phrase is problematical as it seems more normal to use 'lynchets' to refer to terracing on a hill slope. An alternative view could be that he was thinking of the dissected slopes of South Common on his right. See below, note 54.
10 The Saracen's Head stood on the east side of High Street, just to the south of the Stonebow.
11 The font is one of the ten in England carved from black Tournai marble. See G. Zarnecki, Romanesque Sculpture at Lincoln Cathedral, 1970 p. 21, Pl. 36b.
12 The mosaic (fragments of two adjoining floors) stood under a brick building in the Cloisters in the early 19th century and was illustrated by W. Fowler in 1793 and J. P. Neale in 1818, and is referred to by Robert Southey in 'Don Esteban', see Drury, History of Lincoln, 1816, p. 73, but it was later lifted and reset at the foot of the stairs leading to the Old Library. The mosaic no doubt belonged to a private town house.
13 Rib 251, now read as 'Flavus Helius, a Greek, lived forty years. Flavia Ingrena set up this (stone) to her husband'. This has been in the City and County Museum, Lincoln, since 1909.
14 This sculpture of a lady from a tomb, is also in the City and County Museum. It was found in Lincoln before 1784.
15 Stukeley's engraving of the Newport Arch shows the 18th-century ground level. The exact date of the lowering of the roadway was not previously recorded. The Lincoln, Rutland, & Stamford Mercury for 1825 contains many references to the work, e.g. 16th June, 30th June, and 1st September. A subscription towards the opening of the early pedestrian arch raised £44.
Skinner's coins and antiquities formerly in the Bristol Institution, are
now in the City Museum, Bristol, but these Lincoln coins can no longer
be identified. I am grateful to David Dawson and Georgia Ploegwight
of the City Museum for their information.


The Mint Wall. Skinner seems to have written up his journal each night
from memory, rather than from notes, hence details of names etc.
are often slightly wrong.

Perhaps by Cary (1801) or Greenwood (1821). The first edition of the
one-inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map of Lincolnshire was
produced in 1824, but it is perhaps unlikely that Skinner would have
bought such a bulky work. However, W. Brooke, Printer, was offering
the Ordnance Map at the reduced price of £5 14s. (Lincoln, Rutland,
& Stamford Mercury, 14 July 1825).

No local history or guide book seems to have been published in 1825,
but Brooke's and Druitt's Histories seem to have gone through many
editions.

Lucy Tower, by the Brayford Pool. Its site, excavated by the Lincoln
Archaeological Trust in 1972, is now marked by a multi-storey car-park.

Newland.

Before it was laid out as a walk, The Park was used as one of the City's
rubbish dumps. Much 16th- and 17th-century pottery was found filling
the ditch at this point in 1968 and 1970. The Roman wall and lower
West Gate now stand exposed under the City Hall.

Presumably this represents Norman repairs to the City Wall at this point.

West Parade.

In fact it is Norman. The Roman West Gate was found buried in the
Castle bank nearby in 1836 and again in 1954. See F. H. Thompson
& J. B. Whitwell, The Gates of Roman Lincoln. Archaeologia, CIV,
1973, 194 ff.

Skinner is correct here in essentials as regards the relationship between
the upper and lower coloniae of Lincoln.

More herringsbone masonry survives on the west side of the Castle than
anywhere else. Modern restoration work on this side has only just
begun, and it may have escaped the mid 19th-century restoration.

This is correct: the brushing of the wall must have taken place before
1200, during the building of St Hugh's extension.

The Bishop's Palace.

John Farewell, MP in 1830 and donor in 1831 of the clock which adorns
the Stonebow.

The Shire Hall, in the Castle, began in 1822 and a fine piece of Gothic
architecture. It cost nearly £40,000 to build.

Edward J. Wilson, architect, antiquary, and alderman. He lived in
Newport, Lincoln.

Much of his collection is now in Alnwick Castle Museum.

From Skinner's sketch of Aug. 21 Fardell's house was evidently in
Eastgate.

An unusual piece of 16th-century cistercian ware, exhibited at the 1848
Lincoln Meeting of the Royal Archaeological Institute.

William Marrat's plan of 1817. William Fowler's engravings of
Lincolnshire Roman mosaics would also have been available to Skinner
at this date.

The Revd William Gray, recorded in a directory of 1794 but no longer
here in 1826, lived in Vicars' Court, to the south of the cathedral.

It was always a private house. One of two Norman houses in the Strait
and Steep Hill, the so-called Jews House dates from c. 1180.

More proximally it formed one of Lincoln's street markets and had
absolutely nothing to do with amphitheatres.

In 1892 there was a move to take down the Library (attributed to Wren,
not Jones) and to replace it in the Gothic style. Modern taste accords
it greater approbation.

The Dean and Chapter's collection consisted principally of finds from
the dredging of the river Witham in 1787-8 and from the eastern Roman
cemetery of Lincoln in the 1960s.

But see note 26.

The east gate of the castle is probably somewhat earlier, as repairs
would have been required after the siege of 1216/7. There is much
Norman work in the inner part of the facade.

Newport, the northern suburb, which is of early medieval origin.

This coin does appear to be Celtic, and possibly of the tribe of the
Durotriges of Dorset—the drawing is insufficiently clear for certainty.

The quarries were outside the East Gate and many Roman burials were
found here in the 18th-century.

The former etymology is roughly correct, but the col element is derived
from Latin colonia.

Lincoln had at least six gates in Roman times, and traces of cemeteries
have been found outside all of them.

Monks' Abbey, which until the late 19th century lay in rural
surroundings.

The font is Norman, but perhaps Skinner was expecting another
Tourmal marble font?

At Staple End, about half a mile downstream from the High Bridge.

Steam packet boats commenced running between Lincoln and Boston
c. 1814. There were many near-disasters from boiler explosions and
from sabotage by rival companies.

See note 9.

Lincoln High Street, by A. G. Pugin (© Usher Gallery, Lincoln)